blacknewsdigest

NEWS
from the
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Week of April 1, 1974

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The Local Angle:

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The U.S. Department of Labor operates through 10 regional offices located in major cities across the country. If you want a local angle on a news or feature story provided through this service--or have a direct news inquiry--you may contact one of the offices listed below. This listing includes the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the Assistant Regional Directors for Information and the states in their regions:

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Dallas, Tex. 75202
214-749-2308

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Seattle, Wash. 98101
296-442-7620

Week of April 1, 1974

BLACK EX-NEWSPAPERMAN RECEIVES OSHA
PUBLIC AFFAIRS POST IN LABOR DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON -- Richard L. Hurt, former Boston newspaperman and news director at ACTION, has been named Special Assistant for Public Affairs in the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

The appointment was announced by John H. Stender, assistant secretary of labor, who heads OSHA.

Hurt comes to OSHA from ACTION, where he was director of the federal volunteer agency's news bureau since December 1971. Prior to that, he was a public information officer in the U.S. Department of Commerce for two and a half years.

In a long journalistic career, Hurt has worked in Boston, New York and Washington. He was a reporter for the Boston Globe, 1956-63.

He later was assistant director of information at Mobilization for Youth, Inc., an anti-poverty program in New York City, and a senior development specialist with the Boston Redevelopment Authority.

In 1963, he won honorable mention in the Heywood Broun competition of the American Newspaper Guild for a series on a Boston housing project. He also won honorable mention in the Paul Tobenkin competition of the New York Newspaper Guild for the same series.

Hurt is a graduate of Cambridge (Mass.) High and Latin School, Hampton Institute in Virginia and the Syracuse University School of Journalism.

(MORE)

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RICHARD HURT - P. 2

A native of Highland Falls, N.Y., he grew up in Cambridge. He now resides in Silver Spring, Md.

He is a member of the National Press Club, Capital Press Club, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Washington Urban League, Vizsla Club of America, Conestoga Vizsla Club and the Buddy Dog Humane Society. A former merchant seaman, he is a retired member of the National Maritime Union, AFL-CIO.

# # #

Week of April 1, 1974

BLACK WOMEN IN LABOR DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEER
AS CAREER SPONSORS TO INNER-CITY YOUTHS

WASHINGTON -- Ten inner-city young women from the Nation's capital just met with several black women working for the U.S. Department of Labor to learn about the wide range of jobs and career opportunities available to qualified persons.

The program--"Project Women"--is aimed at helping motivate inner-city youths in selecting careers through person-to-person relationships.

The initial half-day meeting was sponsored by the Labor Department's Office of Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and coordinated with the D.C. Commission on the Status of Women.

Working on a one-to-one basis, each of the volunteer career sponsors will team with one of the girls, encouraging her to stay in school, plan a career, and explore vocational and professional training.

A follow-up meeting has been scheduled which will allow each youth to observe her volunteer sponsor "at work" at her worksite.

Mrs. Velma Strode, director of the Department's EEO office, noted that this was the first "Project Women" meeting with participation by Labor Department employees who volunteered to serve as career sponsors.

She added that the meeting was of particular value to the 12- to 14-year-old girls who were selected by school counselors on the basis of needing extra counseling and guidance in overcoming problems.

"Basically," Mrs. Strode said, "it's an effort to extend a helping hand to youth, to motivate and encourage them to stay in school and to prepare for a job that is both financially and personally rewarding."

(MORE)

Speaking to the youths were women representing several Labor Department agencies. They described to the youths their particular occupations, ranging from contract compliance officer to management assistant. Others included secretaries, social science advisors, educators and special assistants to top Labor Department officials.

In addition to learning about the wide expanse of jobs available to women--and seeing black women in those jobs--the youths heard brief talks about pay, fringe benefits, such as sick and annual leave, and other services available to Labor Department employees.

# # #

(MORE)

Week of April 1, 1974

OSHA ANNOUNCES EMERGENCY MEASURES
TO PROTECT WORKERS FROM VINYL CHLORIDE

WASHINGTON -- The Department of Labor has announced it will issue an emergency temporary health standard to protect workers exposed to vinyl chloride while proceeding with normal rulemaking procedures for a permanent standard.

Assistant Secretary of Labor John H. Stender, who heads the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), said the emergency standard will reduce permissible exposure levels of workers in industry from 500 parts per million (ppm) in air to a 50 ppm ceiling, and at the same time require workplace monitoring and, where exposure is greater than the 50 level, personal protective measures and equipment.

The move followed disclosure by officials of the B.F. Goodrich Chemical Co. plant in Louisville, Ky., of a possible connection between vinyl chloride exposure and the deaths of four employees of angiosarcoma--a rare form of liver cancer. One additional death subsequently has been reported from Louisville, and one each from Union Carbide's South Charleston, W.Va., plant and Goodyear's Niagara, N.Y. plant. In addition, two present employees at the Louisville facility have been diagnosed to have angiosarcoma of the liver.

Under the law, the emergency temporary standard serves as a proposed permanent standard. Stender said a proposed permanent standard also would be based on recommendations which have been published by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

This proposed permanent standard would establish methods of monitoring work areas for vinyl chloride, set work practices to be followed, institute a medical surveillance program for employees, and require specific personal

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VINYL CHLORIDE - P. 2

It also would prohibit any exposure to vinyl chloride, a substance that is used widely in the manufacture of polyvinyl chloride (PVC), a type of plastic. (Monitoring devices currently available can measure exposures as low as one part per million in air.)

The emergency standard, to be published in the Federal Register soon, can remain in effect up to six months. It will be superseded, however, as soon as the permanent standard proposal is adopted.

Stender said that "theoretically, the permanent standard can be on the books as early as June."

"Meanwhile," he continued, "the emergency standard will serve to protect workers from the grave danger we know exists."

Following the report from B.F. Goodrich, OSHA held an emergency fact-finding hearing Feb. 15. Later, Stender and other high OSHA officials visited several chemical plants for on-the-spot investigations to determine possible means of limiting worker exposure to vinyl chloride.

Stender said scientific evidence presented at the Feb. 15 hearing by Professor Cesare Maltoni, an Italian scientist, led to the emergency ceiling reduction. Maltoni's studies demonstrated that reduction from 500 to 50 ppm provides a considerable degree of protection from the 250 ppm concentration observed by Maltoni to be cancer-causing in animals, while those exposed only to 50 ppm showed no apparent ill effects.

Stender's visits and meetings followed a field study by a team of OSHA industrial hygienists and chemical engineers at a number of chemical plants in Louisiana to develop technical recommendations.

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VINYL CHLORIDE - P. 3

Although the emergency standard will become effective shortly after publication in the Federal Register, the permanent standard will not be adopted until the public has been given an opportunity to comment and, if requested, a public hearing is held.

# # #

Week of April '74

ANNUAL EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS REPORT
PUBLISHED BY LABOR DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON -- Data on employment, hours and earnings, by state, can be a found in a recent Labor Department publication, "Employment and Earnings, States and Areas, 1939-72, Bulletin 1370-10."

The 11th annual edition, published by the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics also includes data for the District of Columbia and 227 major labor areas along with a graphic and summary tabular materials section.

This statistical reference volume is a joint federal-state undertaking prepared from data compiled by state employment security agencies and state departments of labor in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Manpower Administration.

The data are used as economic indicators, as a base for marketing and plant location studies, for wage negotiations, and for mobilization and manpower planning.

The annual report is available for $5.95 a copy from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, or any of the following BLS Regional Offices listed below.

Make check or money order payable to the Superintendent of Documents. Please refer to Catalogue No. L2.3:1370-10, plus bulletin title.

(MORE)

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300 South Wacker Drive
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# # #

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX--FEBRUARY 1974

WASHINGTON -- The Consumer Price Index rose 1.3 percent in February to 141.5 (1967=100), the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

Almost half of the February increase was due to higher prices for food. Higher prices for gasoline and other energy items accounted for about a fifth of the increase.

The February CPI was 10.0 percent higher than a year ago.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the February increase in the CPI was also 1.3 percent. In January the CPI increased 1.0 percent, 0.5 percent in December.

The food index rose 2.5 percent in February, compared with 1.6 percent in January, and 0.3 percent in December.

The nonfood commodities index rose 1.0 percent in February, following increases of 1.3 percent in January and 0.7 percent in December.

The services index rose 0.7 percent in February, the same as in January.

The index for food purchased in grocery stores--the major portion of the food index--rose 3.0 percent, substantially more than is usual for February. The index for food away from home--restaurant meals and snacks--rose 0.7 percent.

Over a third of the rise in the food at home index was due to a 7.5 percent rise in beef prices. The February increase in beef prices followed a smaller increase in January and declines in the last 3 months of 1973.

Fresh vegetable prices increased sharply in February instead of declining as they usually do. Prices also rose for most other types of food, including processed fruits and vegetables, cereal and bakery products, dairy products, and sugar and sugar-based products. Poultry prices declined, however, instead of increasing as they usually do in February.

The index for nonfood commodities--which usually is unchanged in February--increased 1.0 percent. (MORE)

BLACK NEWS DIGEST - 4/1/74
CPI - P. 2

The gasoline and motor oil index increased 5.3 percent, slightly less than in January, to a level 30.9 percent above February of last year.

The fuel oil and coal index rose 3.8 percent, the smallest increase in 5 months, to a level 58.8 percent above February 1973.

Apparel prices rose more than they usually do in February, following a seasonal decline in January. Prices also increased for a wide range of other nonfood commodities such as textile housefurnishings, housekeeping supplies, toilet goods, newspapers, and household durables. The effect of these increases was moderated by a further sharp decline in used car prices. New car prices also declined, but less than they usually do in February.

The services index rose 0.7 percent in February. In the household services category, charges for gas, electricity, water and sewerage services, housekeeping and home maintenance services, and rent continued to increase. Mortage interest rates and property taxes declined.

Medical care services increased more than in recent months as a result of larger increases for physicians' fees and charges for most types of hospital services.

Other types of services such as apparel, personal care, recreational, and funeral services continued to rise.

# # #

Week of April 1, 1974

REAL EARNINGS DECREASE
0.5% IN FEBRUARY

WASHINGTON -- Real earnings for full- and part-time workers on production or non-supervisory jobs in the private nonfarm sector of the economy decreased 0.5 percent in February after allowance for the usual seasonal change.

The decline was the result of a 1.3 percent increase in the Consumer Price Index which more than overcame a 0.2 percent rise in average hourly earnings and a 0.5 percent increase in average weekly hours.

The figures were released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Over the year, real average weekly earnings were down 3.9 percent. A rise of 6.6 percent in average hourly earnings was more than offset by a 10.0 percent increase in consumer prices and a 0.8 percent decrease in average weekly hours.

Before adjustment for the increase in the Consumer Price Index and for seasonal change, average weekly earnings were $147.10 in February, compared with $139.10 a year earlier.

Real spendable earnings are real weekly pay after deduction of Social Security and Federal income taxes.

Over the year, real spendable earnings were down 4.5 percent owing to a 3.9 percent decline in real weekly earnings and a 0.7 percent increase in the effect of taxes. This was the largest percent decline over the year since the monthly real spendable earnings series began in 1964.

The Hourly Earnings Index in dollars of constant purchasing power was 107.4 in February, seasonally adjusted, 1.0 percent lower than in January and 3.0 percent below a year ago. The index excludes the effect of overtime in manufacturing and of interindustry shifts, such as the shift of workers between high-wage and low-wage industries.

# # #

industries.

# # #

Week of April 1, 1974

RETAIL GASOLINE PRICES--FEBRUARY 1974

WASHINGTON -- Average prices of regular and premium gasoline, collected as part of the Consumer Price Index, rose 5.5 percent from January to February, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

In February the U.S. average price for regular grade gasoline rose 5.7 percent to 49.1 cents per gallon and the average price for premium gasoline rose 5.2 percent to 52.7 cents per gallon.

In February, increases for both regular and premium gasoline were the smallest in Kansas City and the largest in Buffalo.

In the 4-month period from October--when the Bureau started to publish average gasoline prices--to February, prices of regular gasoline rose 22.0 percent and premium gasoline rose 19.8 percent.

The present changes in the prices for both regular and premium gasoline during this period have been smaller in Honolulu than for any of the other 23 metropolitan areas for which individual gasoline prices are published. However, average prices for both regular and premium gasoline in February are still higher in Honolulu than in any of the other 23 metropolitan areas.

Correspondingly, the percent change in the prices of both regular and premium gasoline have been the largest in Dallas which next to Houston had the lowest average prices in February for both grades of gasoline.

# # #

World of Work

Jobs For Veterans Places 3.5 Million

By PETER J. BRENNAN
Secretary of Labor

QUESTION: After World War II, veterans got all kinds of job help. What has been done to help Vietnam-era veterans get jobs?

ANSWER: A great deal has been done. During the past three years, more than 3.5 million Vietnam-era veterans have been placed in jobs or training programs under the President's Jobs for Veterans program. The unemployment rate for veterans dropped during this period from an 11 percent high to 5.2 percent in January of this year. But there is still a big job to be done, especially for younger veterans and for those veterans who are disabled. The Jobs for Veterans program is now under the auspices of an interagency committee composed of the Departments of Labor, Commerce, and Defense and the Veteran's Administration. The National Alliance of Businessmen (NAB) is also involved in this effort. The NAB's responsibilities include conducting an all-media information campaign to encourage jobs for veterans, and sponsoring "job information days" throughout the country. Veterans seeking employment and/or job counseling should contact their local state employment security office for assistance.

* * * *

QUESTION: Our employer says we may lose our jobs soon. He says our company is losing business because the product we manufacture is being made cheaper overseas. If this happens, are we eligible for help from the government?

ANSWER: Some workers who lose their jobs because of foreign imports are eligible for assistance. Either unemployed or underemployed workers who feel they have been adversely affected by imports may petition the U.S. Tariff Commission. If the tariff commission finds that trade agreement concessions caused the unemployment or underemployment, the Labor Department may certify that the workers are eligible for cash allowances and other benefits under the Trade Expansion Act of 1962. These allowances are administered by the Labor Department through state employment security offices. Cash benefits may equal 65 percent of a worker's average weekly wage or 65 percent of the national average weekly wage in manufacturing (about $101 at present), whichever is less. Displaced workers are also eligible for job training and, under certain conditions, relocation allowances. Inquiries on the Trade Expansion Act may be addressed to: Office of Foreign Economic Policy, ILAB, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, D.C. 20210.

* * * *

Editor's note: If you have a question regarding job training and placement, labor-management relations, job health and safety, equal employment opportunity, wages and hours, employment and unemployment, prices and earnings and other matters involving the U.S. Department of Labor, send it to:

Peter J. Brennan
Secretary of Labor
"World of Work"
U.S. Department of Labor
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Consumer

Food's More Than Something To Gulp

By Virginia Knauer
Special Assistant to the President
and Director
Office of Consumer Affairs
Department of Health, Education and Welfare

Are your hands quicker than your eyes?

Do you grab a can or box of food off the grocer's shelf without giving your eyes time to read the label? Or just barely give your eyes time to read the price?

This week when you do your grocery shopping, slow down. Take time to read labels. I think you'll find some interesting information has been added to the labels of many foods.

If you have been reading labels recently, you know I'm referring to the new nutrition labeling that some food companies are using. By 1975, more foods will have nutrition labeling either because of some regulations of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or—I'm pleased to say—consumer demand.

Old

Packaged Pastry

INGREDIENTS: Wheat Flour, Sugar, Corn Syrup, Shortening (BHA added as a Preservative), Invert Syrup, Dextrose, Corn Flour, Whey Solids, Strawberries, Glycerine, Gelatinized Corn Meal, Gelatinized Corn Starch, Ground Dried Apples, Leavening, Salt, Artificial Flavor, Wheat Starch, Malic Acid, Citric Acid, Potassium Sorbate (Added as a Preservative), Niacin, Artificial Color, Vitamin B_1, Vitamin B_2, Vitamin A.

283.5 GRAMS

XYZ CORP.
Big City, USA
Distributor

New

Packaged Pastry

NUTRITION INFORMATION
(per serving)

Serving Size	1 pastry	PERCENTAGE OF U.S. RECOMMENDED DAILY ALLOWANCES (U.S. RDA)	
Servings per carton	6		
Calories	200	Protein	2%
Protein	2 gm	Vitamin A	15%
Carbohydrate	35 gm	Vitamin C	15%
Fat	5 gm	Thiamine	15%
		Riboflavin	15%
		Niacin	15%
		Calcium	2%
		Iron	8%

INGREDIENTS: Wheat Flour, Sugar, Corn Syrup, Shortening (BHA added as a Preservative), Invert Syrup, Dextrose, Corn Flour, Whey Solids, Strawberries, Glycerine, Gelatinized Corn Meal, Gelatinized Corn Starch, Ground Dried Apples, Leavening, Salt, Imitation Flavor, Wheat Starch, Malic Acid, Citric Acid, Potassium Sorbate (Added as a Preservative), Niacin, Artificial Color, Vitamin B_1, Vitamin B_2, Vitamin A.

283.5 GRAMS

XYZ CORP.
Big City, USA
Distributor

Why should you take time to read the nutrition labels? I personally read them:

- To find out how many calories are in each serving of the food;
- To compare the nutrition content of different kinds of food, to find better nutrition for my food dollar;
- To aid me in planning nutritionally balanced meals;
- To identify foods that are high in certain nutrients that I need or should avoid.

The labels don't tell you everything you need to know about food. For one thing, there is a limited amount of space on boxes and can or jar wrappers. Also, a supermarket is not a library where you pull "books" off the shelf to do your homework about nutrition.

You can do your homework at home—or at your public library—by finding and reading books and magazine articles about nutrition. But so much has been written about nutrition, it is easy to get confused. The Federal Government has two basic booklets about nutrition available free: **Food Is More Than Just Something To Eat** and **The New Look in Food Labels.** Send your request for either one (or both) to Consumer Information, Pueblo, Colo. 81009.

Tube watchers may be interested in a 10-part series about nutrition that will be broadcast by some NBC-affiliated television stations, starting this spring. Check local TV schedules for the program called "Nutrition for Today," or call or write the NBC station in your area for its schedule of this series.

Week of April 1, 1974

FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The National Labor Relations Act gives employees the right to form, join or assist labor organizations or to refrain from doing so.

* * *

Title I of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act is called the Bill of Rights of Members of Labor Organizations and sets forth certain basic rights which Congress believed should be guaranteed to members by federal law.

* * *

All union members have equal rights and privileges in nominating candidates for union offices under the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act, subject only to reasonable rules and regulations in a union's constitution and bylaws.

* * *

Most of the provisions of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act are administered by the U.S. Department of Labor through its Labor-Management Services Administration.

* * *

The Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act establishes democratic standards for union elections.

* * *

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